

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-18, 20-27, 29-38 and 40-42 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claim 39 has been cancelled. Applicants' representative thanks Examiner for indicating claims 1-7 and 9 have been allowed. Claims 10, 21, 29, 30 and 40-42 have been amended as shown on pages 2-8 of the Reply.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Objection to Claim 39 Under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c)

Claim 39 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. This objection should be withdrawn for at least the following reason. Claim 39 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, this objection is moot and should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 21-27, 29 and 41 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 21-27, 29 and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sadahiro (U.S. 6,237,136) in view of Dumarot, *et al.* (U.S. 6,059,842). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reason. The allowable subject matter from independent claim 1 has been incorporated into independent claims 21 and 41, rendering the Examiner's rejection moot. Claims 22-27 and 29 depend from claim 21. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claims 10-18, 20, 30-40 and 42 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 10-18, 20, 30-40 and 42 stand rejected 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sadahiro (U.S. 6,237,136) and Dumarot, *et al.* (U.S. 6,059,842) in view of Stern, *et al.* (U.S. 2003/0233349). Claim 39 has been cancelled, as noted above. This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reason. The allowable subject matter from independent claim 1 has been incorporated into independent claims 10, 30 and 42, rendering the Examiner's rejection moot. Claims 11-18 and 20 depend from claim 10; claims 31-38 and 40 depend from claim 30. In view of at least the foregoing, this rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [ALBRP310US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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